

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this amendment, multiple dependencies have been eliminated. Examination on the merits of the instant application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 10-29 remain in this application.

CONCLUSION

If any additional fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: February 24, 2004

By: *Brian E. Hanlon*
Brian E. Hanlon
Registration No. 40,449

1001 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
Tel: (202) 824-3000
Fax: (202) 824-3001